

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for managing data including the steps of:
 - 2 (a) creating a questionnaire comprising a series of questions;
 - 3 (b) tokenizing said questionnaire; thereby producing a plurality of tokens
 - 4 representing said questionnaire;
 - 5 (c) transmitting said plurality of tokens to a remote computing device;
 - 6 (d) executing at least a portion of said plurality of tokens representing said
 - 7 questionnaire at said remote computing device to collect a response from a
 - 8 user;
 - 9 (e) transmitting at least a portion of said response from the user to a server via
 - 10 a network; and
 - 11 (f) storing said response at said server.

- 1 2. The method for managing data of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
 - 2 (g) translating said response to a format recognizable by a particular computer
 - 3 program; and
 - 4 (h) accessing the translated response from a computer executing said particular
 - 5 computer program.

1 3. The method for managing data of claim 1 wherein step (a) includes the substeps of:
2 (a) creating a questionnaire by:
3 (i) entering a series of questions into a questionnaire design computer
4 program;
5 (ii) identifying within said questionnaire design computer program the
6 type of response allowed for each question of said series of questions;
7 and
8 (iii) identifying within said questionnaire design computer program a
9 branching path in said questionnaire for each possible response to
10 each question of said series of questions.

1 4. The method for managing data of claim 1 wherein step (b) includes the substeps of:
2 (b) tokenizing said questionnaire thereby producing a plurality of tokens
3 representing said questionnaire by:
4 (i) assigning at least one token to each question of said series of
5 questions;
6 (ii) assigning at least one token to each response called for in said series
7 of questions to identify the type of response required; and
8 (iii) assigning at least one token to each branch in said questionnaire to
9 identify the required program control associated with said branch.

1 5. The method of data management of claim 1 wherein the transmission of said tokens
2 in step (c) occurs via the network of step (e).

1 6. A method for modifying a questionnaire used in data management according to the
2 method of claim 1 including the steps of:

3 (a) making at least one incremental change to a portion of the questionnaire;

4 (b) tokenizing said at least one incremental change to said questionnaire;

5 (c) transmitting at least a portion of said tokens resulting from step (b) to a
6 remote computing device, said transmitted tokens comprising less than the
7 entire tokenized questionnaire;

8 (d) incorporating said transmitted tokens into said questionnaire at said remote
9 computing device.

1 7. A method for collecting survey data from a user comprising:

2 (a) designing a questionnaire having branching logic on a first computer
3 platform;

4 (b) automatically transferring said designed questionnaire to at least one loosely
5 networked computer;

6 (c) executing said transferred questionnaire on said loosely networked computer,
7 thereby collecting responses from the user;

- 8 (d) automatically transferring via the loose network any responses so collected
9 to a central computer; and,
10 (e) making available on the Web any responses transferred to said central
11 computer in step (d).

- 1 8. The method for collecting survey data according to claim 7 further comprising:
2 (a) assessing a charge for each transferred response received by said central
3 computer.

- 1 9. A method for managing data transfers between computers including the steps of:
2 (a) creating a questionnaire at a first site in a first computer located at a second
3 site, said first site and said second site being connected by a network;
4 (b) transmitting said question to a remote computer via said network, said remote
5 computer running an OIS;
6 (c) modifying said questionnaire with incremental changes at a third site in said
7 first computer located at said second site; and
8 (d) modifying said questionnaire in said remote computer with said incremental
9 changes.

- 1 10. The method for managing data transfers between computers according to claim 9
2 wherein said first site and said third site are the same.

1 11. The method for managing data transfers between computers according to claim 9
2 wherein said third site is at said remote computer.